IN 8 ISSUES, IT'S ALL OVER!

IDW®

#5 • $3.99

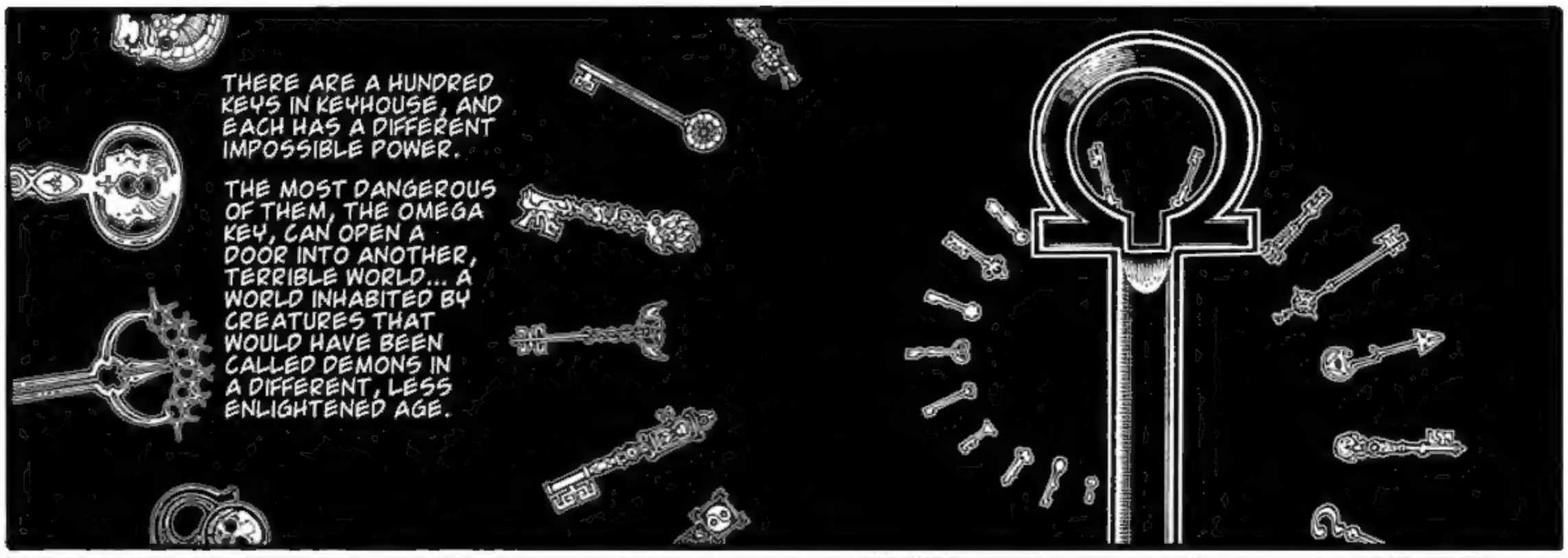
JOE HILL

GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ

JAY FOTOS

LOCKE & KEY

CLOCKWORKS


THERE ARE A HUNDRED KEYS IN KEYHOUSE, AND EACH HAS A DIFFERENT IMPOSSIBLE POWER.
THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THEM, THE OMEGA KEY, CAN OPEN A DOOR INTO ANOTHER, TERRIBLE WORLD... A WORLD INHABITED BY CREATURES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED DEMONS IN A DIFFERENT, LESS ENLIGHTENED AGE.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, SIX TEENAGE FRIENDS, LED BY RENDELL LOCKE, SHARED THE KEYS OUT AMONGST ONE ANOTHER, AND WERE BLESSED WITH MAGIC, WONDER, AND HAPPINESS.
WITH THE LAST DAYS OF HIGH SCHOOL APPROACHING, RENDELL SUGGESTS A FINAL ADVENTURE: A TRIP INTO THE DROWNING CAVE, TO FIND THE DOOR TO THAT OTHER WORLD, AND LET A SINGLE DEMON THROUGH.
WHEN IT CROSSES THE DOORWAY, THE DEMON SHOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO THE WHISPERING IRON, THE STUFF FROM WHICH ALL THE KEYS ARE FORGED. RENDELL HOPES TO USE THIS IMPOSSIBLE METAL TO CRAFT A KEY OF HIS OWN.
IS IT REALLY ANY SURPRISE, THOUGH, THAT OPENING A DOOR TO LET IN DEVILS SOON THROWS ALL THEIR PLANS TO HELL?

regular cover

ri cover

Cover Checklist:

Written by: Joe Hill • Art by: Gabriel Rodriguez

Colors by: Jay Fotos • Letters by: Robbie Robbins • Edited by: Chris Ryall

Locke & Key created by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez | Follow Joe Hill on Twitter **@joe_hill** • Follow Gabriel Rodriguez on Twitter **@GR_comics**

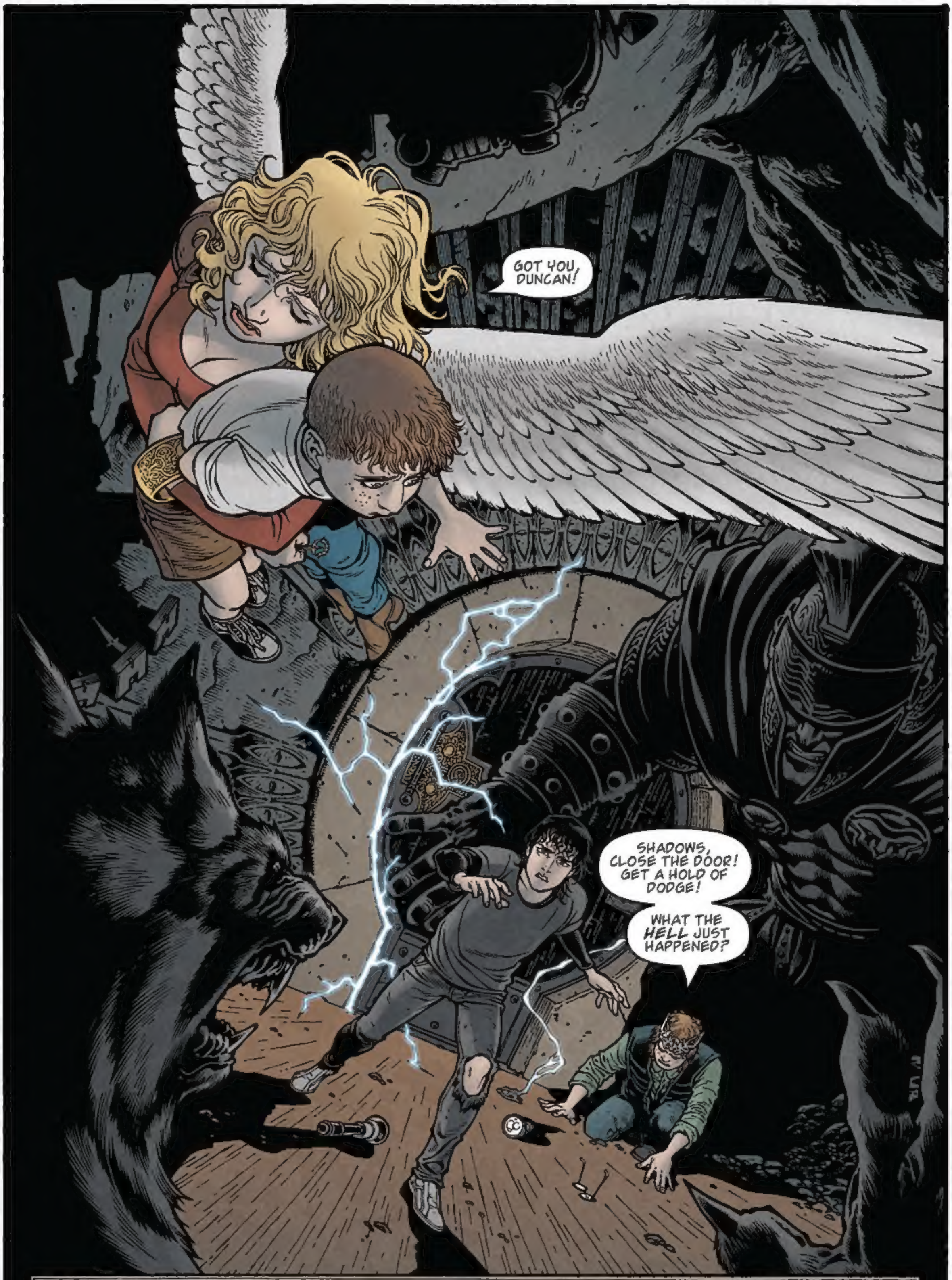
IDW founded by Ted Adams, Alex Garner, Kris Oprisko, and Robbie Robbins | International Rights Representative, Christine Meyer: christine@gfloystudio.com

IDW

Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher
Greg Goldstein, President & COO
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Payne, VP of Sales

Become our fan on Facebook **facebook.com/idwpublishing**
Follow us on Twitter **@idwpublishing**
Check us out on YouTube **youtube.com/idwpublishing**
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

LOCKE & KEY: CLOCKWORKS #5. MARCH 2012. FIRST PRINTING. Locke & Key script © 2012 Joe Hill; art © 2012 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92109. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in U.S.A.
IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.



Clockworks ~ Chapter Five
Grown-Ups

Storytellers - **Joe Hill** & **Gabriel Rodríguez**

Colored by **Jay Fotos** - Lettered by **Robbie Robbins** - Edited by **Chris Ryall**

Locke & Key created by Joe Hill & Gabriel Rodríguez

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* TO HIM, RENDELL? LET HIM UP! IT'S *HURTING* HIM!

AAA! GET THIS OFF ME! GET IT OFF!

GODDAMN IT, DODGE *TOLD* YOU TO STAY OUT! YOU PROMISED! AND... YOU *THIEVING SHIT*! YOU TOOK THE ANYWHERE KEY RIGHT OUT OF MY BRACELET!

I DIDN'T *MEAN* IT! I'M *SORRY*! I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT!

I'M *SO* SORRY. HE'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T HE? PLEASE SAY HE'S ALL RIGHT! I'LL *KILL* MYSELF IF HE'S NOT!

AW, KID. AW. *SH*. YOU DIDN'T MEAN—

IT'S OKAY. I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU.

FUCK.

THAT WAS... TOO FUCKING CLOSE. I THINK ONE OF THOSE THINGS HAD ME FOR A MOMENT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "FOR A MOMENT?"

YEAH. FOR A MOMENT, I FELT IT LATCHING ON. THEN THE SHADOWS KNOCKED ME FREE. JESUS CHRIST. YOU SAVED MY LIFE THERE, RENDELL.

AND IF YOU'D LOWER THAT FUCKING FLASHLIGHT, MARK, YOU'D ALSO BE SAVING MY SIGHT. WHICH WOULD BE NICE.

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE WHEN IT WAS TRYING TO LATCH ON?

HORRIBLE. LIKE MY WHOLE ARM GOING NUMB. LIKE I STUCK IT IN A BUCKET OF ICEWATER.

OH, GOD. OH, JESUS. ONE OF THOSE THINGS TOUCHED ME. I THINK I WANT TO PUKE. IT ALMOST GOT ME, ELLIE. WHAT IF IT GOT ME?

IT DIDN'T. YOU'RE STILL YOU. YOU'RE STILL YOU AND I'VE GOT YOU AND WE'RE GETTING THE FUCK OUT OF HERE.

NOW.

HELLO, RENDELL.

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. YOU GET THE OMEGA KEY AND COME WITH ME TO THE DROWNING CAVE AND I WON'T HAVE TO CHOP YOUR HEAD OFF.

MHMMM... NUH? OH. OH, GOD, DODGE. WHAT DID WE DO TO YOU?

WHO THHH—

THAT DIDN'T HURT. NOTHING HURTS ANYMORE.

NO. THAT THING GOT INTO YOUR... SOUL. IT CAN MAKE PAIN FEEL GOOD. IT CAN MAKE HATE FEEL LIKE LOVE.

I'VE BEEN READING UP ON IT IN BEN LOCKE'S DIARY.

YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I DIDN'T, MAN. ERIN SPOTTED IT. ERIN AND I SPENT SOME TIME GOOFING WITH THE TIMESHIFT KEY, BACK WHEN WE WERE IN AMERICAN HISTORY 301.

WE BOTH SAW WHAT HAPPENED THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE OPENED THE BLACK DOOR. SHE REMEMBERED THAT WHEN ONE OF THOSE THINGS TOUCHES YOU... IT FEELS GOOD. NOT BAD. NOT LIKE ICEWATER.

OH, THAT *IS* SMART, ERIN. YOU ARE *SO* SMART.

THE ONLY THING YOU'RE NOT SMART ABOUT IS RENDELL. HE'S NEVER GOING TO LOVE YOU. YOU'RE OKAY TO DO HOMEWORK WITH, BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE SIX FEET AND BLONDE. YOU'LL NEVER BE WHITE.

RENDELL MAY BE ALL MISTER LIBERAL ON THE SURFACE, BUT HE AIN'T GOING TO FOOL WITH ANY DARK MEAT. HELL, HE WOULDN'T EVEN DATE A GIRL WITH DARK HAIR!

I'D BE UPSET IF I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU, LUCAS. BUT I KNOW IT ISN'T.

THE LUCAS CARAVAGGIO I KNEW WOULD RATHER CUT OUT HIS OWN TONGUE THAN SAY—

THE TRUTH?

YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO, RENDELL.

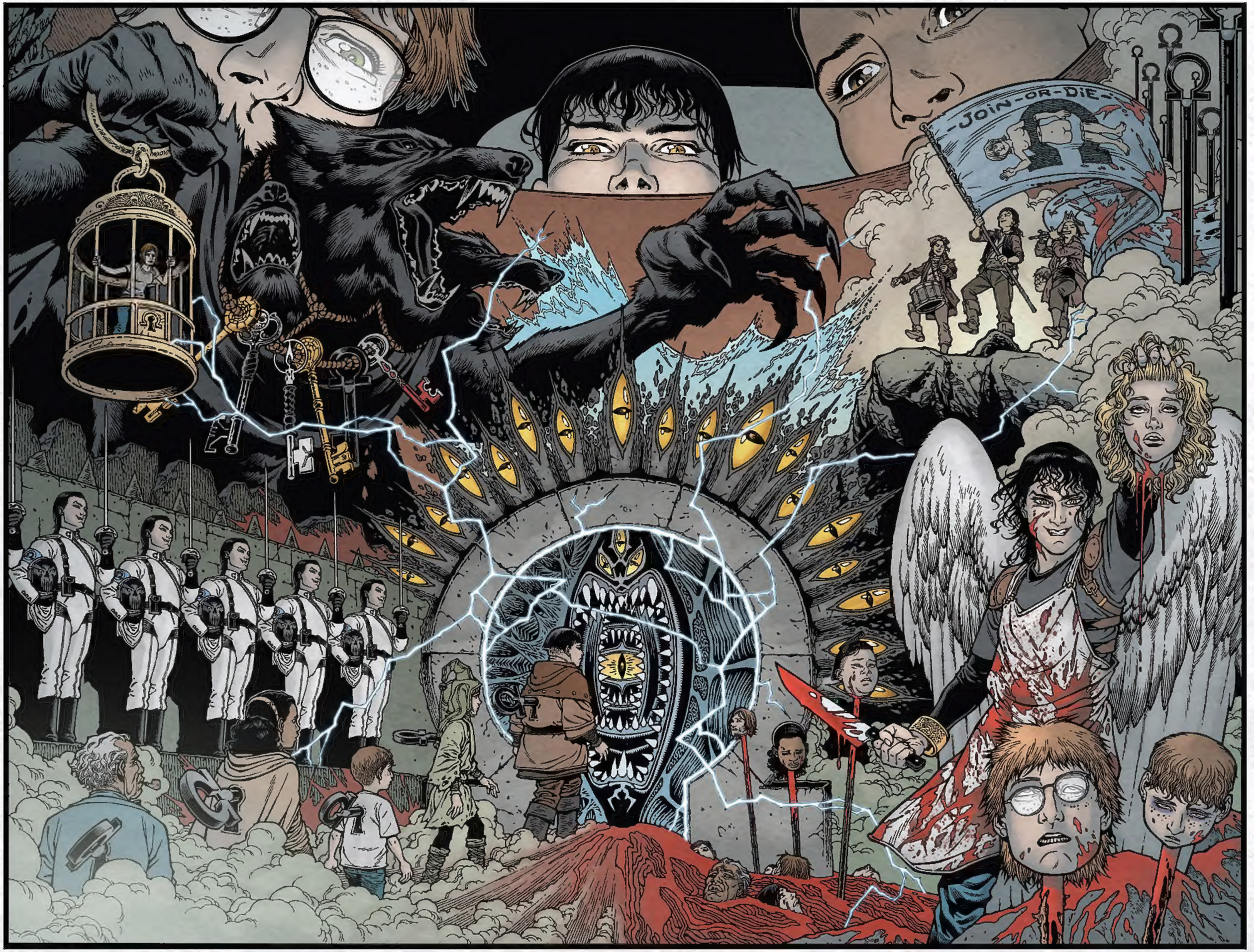
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

TAK!

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT OF ME BY OPENING MY HEAD. IT'S NOT IN MY HEAD.

WE KNOW THAT, LUKE. WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING ELSE.


JOIN-OR-DIE

THAT'S IT. I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING.

PUT HIM TO SLEEP. WE NEED TO TALK.

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE'S GOING TO BE LIKE WHEN HE WAKES UP?

WE TOOK OUT EVERY MEMORY OF THE BLACK DOOR. HELL, WE TOOK OUT ALMOST EVERY MEMORY OF THE LAST THREE YEARS. HE'S FUCKED COME EXAM TIME.

HE WON'T BE HIM. I KNOW THAT.

WE CAN TAKE OUT HIS MEMORIES. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT HIS SOUL.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW? HOW DO WE FIX THIS?

YEAH, MAN, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING, SOME *KEY* WE CAN USE...

IN ANY REASONABLE WORLD, I WOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE KEYS AGAIN. MY BEST FRIEND IS GONE AND IT'S MY FAULT.

I WAS... GRASPING AFTER POWER. THE KEYS ONLY MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN TO CHILDREN BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ADULTS GET HOLD OF THEM.

GROWN-UPS PLAY FOR ADVANTAGE INSTEAD OF JUST... PLAYING.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL IT? WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING SELFISH AND THOUGHTLESS AND PEOPLE GET HURT?

BUT WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP. IF WE DON'T FIX HIM...

...HE WON'T EVEN REMEMBER HE LOVES ME.

NO ONE IS GIVING UP. THIS HOUSE IS FULL OF OLD JOURNALS. THERE'S A LOT OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE KEYS, ABOUT THE CAVE.

WE'LL STUDY. WE'LL FIND OUT EVERYTHING WE CAN ABOUT THE DEMONS. MAYBE THERE'S SOME WAY TO REVERSE THIS. IN THE MEANTIME, THOUGH, WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL.

WE'VE STRIPPED DODGE OF MOST OF HIS MEMORIES, BUT WE HAVE TO ASSUME HE'S STILL DANGEROUS.

EVERYONE SHOULD KEEP A KEY ON THEM AT ALL TIMES, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM HIM. MARK, YOU HOLD ON TO THE CROWN. KIM, YOU'VE GOT YOUR WINGS. ELLIE—

I'M NOT GOING TO PROTECT MYSELF FROM LUKE!

I'M NOT GOING TO USE ANY KEY ON HIM, EITHER.

WHAT WE JUST DID TO HIM IS ENOUGH. *MORE* THAN ENOUGH—IT WAS LIKE RAPE. IT WAS *WORSE* THAN RAPE.

THE KEYS, THE *FUCKING KEYS*—THEY MAKE ME WANT TO PUKE. *ALL* OF YOU MAKE ME WANT TO *FUCKING* PUKE!

AW, ELLIE— *ELLIE*—!

LET HER GO, MARK. SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT. SHE NEEDS TIME. AND SLEEP.

WE ALL NEED SLEEP. WE SHOULD PROBABLY CLEAR OUT. BE DONE FOR TONIGHT.

ISN'T THERE ONE MORE THING TO FIGURE OUT? WHERE ARE WE GOING TO PUT DODGE'S MEMORIES? WHERE WILL THEY BE SAFE?

I'VE GOT JUST THE PLACE.

THERE'LL EVEN BE SOMEONE TO GUARD THEM.

ALL RIGHT. WELL... LATER, MAN.

TRY AND GET SOME REST, RENDELL.

I THINK I NEED TO BE HELD.

DO YOU WANT TO GO UP TO YOUR ROOM?

NO.

WHO?

MOM?

MOM. I NEED YOU.

TWO WEEKS LATER...

JESUS. SLOW DOWN, DODGE. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING MORE DISGUSTING THAN THE WAY YOU'RE JAMMING DOWN THAT HOT DOG. YOU'LL CHOKE.

FUNNY. I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT.

WHY YOU GOT TO BE SO MEAN? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED TALKING TO ME. YOU SAID YOU LIKED MY VOICE.

I SAID I LIKED YOUR MOUTH. THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING.

DODGE. LUKE. PLEASE.

THIS ISN'T YOU. YOU DON'T TREAT PEOPLE LIKE THEY'RE TRASH.

WHO. THE FUCK...

...ARE YOU?

DUDE... YOU ARE SO *COLD*, IT'S *HOT*.

THE TWO OF YOU WERE ALL OVER EACH OTHER FOR MONTHS—I COULDN'T GET YOU TO LOOK AT ME IF I WAS WALKING THE HALLS NAKED. AND NOW YOU PRETEND LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW HER. *HA!*

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT—WE WERE ALL OVER EACH OTHER?

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, YOU NUMB CUNT. OR WHAT I DID TO YOU LAST NIGHT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU TONIGHT.

POOR ELLIE. I CAN HEAR HER HEART BREAKING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE.

SHE'S BEEN GOING UP TO THE WELLHOUSE, YOU KNOW. ALMOST EVERY DAY. JUST SITTING WITH DODGE'S MEMORIES. THIS IS KILLING HER.

I KNOW THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN TRY... SOMETHING WE CAN DO... BUT I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

YOU'RE TAKING TOO MUCH ON YOURSELF.

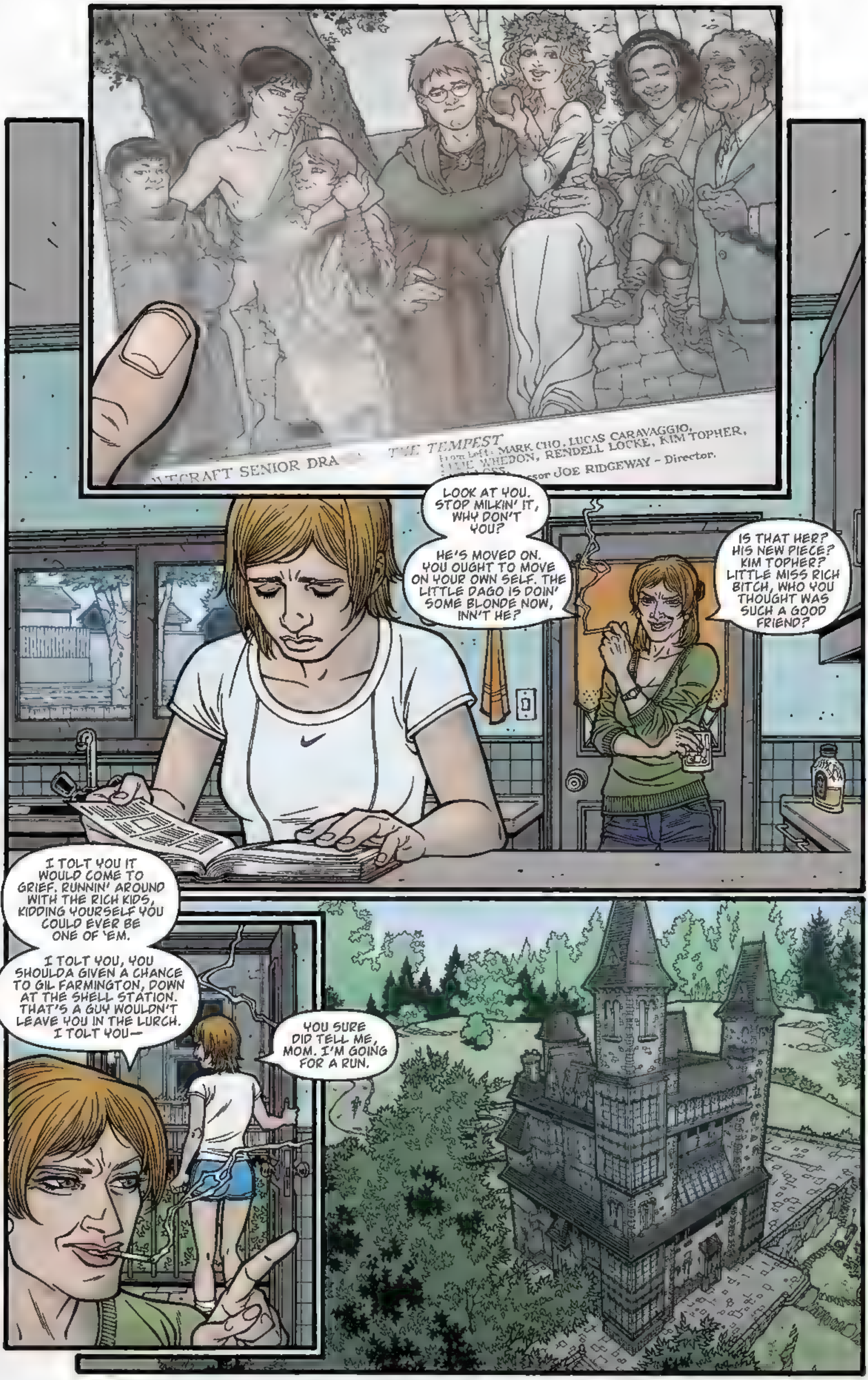
YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT IN TWO WEEKS. LET ME HELP. I CAN COME TO KEYHOUSE RIGHT AFTER LAST BELL AND—

I HATE IT THERE. I HATE HAVING THE KEYS SO CLOSE. I'M SO USED TO RELYING ON THEM TO SOLVE ALL MY PROBLEMS.

CHRIST, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF LOVECRAFT. WHEN I HEAD TO THE WEST COAST, I'M NEVER COMING BACK.

SO YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN KEYHOUSE. FINE. BRING BEN LOCKE'S DIARIES AND WE'LL MEET AT THE LIBRARY. IF WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN'T DO.

YEAH. YOU TWO MAKE SMART TOGETHER. I'M GONNA GO BY ELLIE'S TONIGHT, CHECK AND SEE SHE'S OKAY.


TCRAFT SENIOR DRA
THE TEMPEST
From Left: MARK CHO, LUCAS CARAVAGGIO,
WHEDON, RENDELL LOCKE, KIM TOPHER,
ssor JOE RIDGEWAY – Director.
LOOK AT YOU. STOP MILKIN' IT, WHY DON'T YOU?
HE'S MOVED ON. YOU OUGHT TO MOVE ON YOUR OWN SELF. THE LITTLE DAGO IS DOIN' SOME BLONDE NOW, INN'T HE?
IS THAT HER? HIS NEW PIECE? KIM TOPHER? LITTLE MISS RICH BITCH, WHO YOU THOUGHT WAS SUCH A GOOD FRIEND?
I TOLT YOU IT WOULD COME TO GRIEF. RUNNIN' AROUND WITH THE RICH KIDS, KIDDING YOURSELF YOU COULD EVER BE ONE OF 'EM.
I TOLT YOU, YOU SHOULDA GIVEN A CHANCE TO GIL FARMINGTON, DOWN AT THE SHELL STATION. THAT'S A GUY WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU IN THE LURCH. I TOLT YOU—
YOU SURE DID TELL ME, MOM. I'M GOING FOR A RUN.

MRS. LOCKE? MRS. LOCKE? IT'S ME AGAIN.

WHY DO YOU DO THIS TO YOURSELF, ELLIE?

THIS MAKES YOU SO UNHAPPY.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MRS. LOCKE... YOU'RE AN ECHO. YOU AREN'T ALIVE ANYMORE. YOU'RE... AT PEACE. THIS IS HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO BE CLOSE TO HIM.

WE NEVER SHOULD'VE TAKEN SO MUCH OUT OF HIS HEAD.

IF WE COULD'VE LEFT HIM JUST ONE MEMORY OF KINDNESS. JUST ONE MEMORY OF LOVE. JUST ONE MEMORY OF ALL OF US TOGETHER WHEN THINGS WERE GOOD.

IF HE HAD SUCH A MEMORY, ELLIE, HE WOULD ONLY USE IT TO TRY AND MANIPULATE YOU. THE BOY WHO HELD YOU THAT WAY DOESN'T KNOW HIMSELF ANYMORE.

TRUST RENDELL ON THIS. PLACE YOUR FAITH IN—

LUKE TRUSTED HIM.

RENDELL KNEW IT WAS DANGEROUS, BUT *LUKE* HAD FAITH.

SEE WHERE IT GOT HIM.

ELLIE? DOES RENDELL KNOW YOU'RE HERE TODAY? DOES ANYONE KNOW YOU'RE HERE?

JUST ME.

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

DODGE! WHAT ARE YOU—

FOLLOWED YOU. BEEN WATCHING YOU. I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU. I *KNEW*.

YES. I SUPPOSE YOU DID. RENDELL, IN HIS LOVE FOR YOU, DIDN'T TAKE NEARLY *ENOUGH* OUT OF YOUR HEAD. HE WOULD'VE BEEN WELL TO WIPE YOU COMPLETELY, AT LEAST FOR A TIME.

DO NOT ENTER, CHILD. NOT IF YOU WANT TO LIVE.

ELLIE, STAY BEHIND ME. I CAN CALL TO RENDELL AND THE OTHERS THROUGH THE EHCOES... AND I CAN HOLD DODGE BACK.

THIS THING THAT PRETENDS TO BE A BOY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ROAM FREE.

—STAY BACK—

NO! MRS. LOCKE, YOU CAN'T—YOU CAN'T!

NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO! MRS. LOCKE! I DIDN'T MEAN TO!

OH, CHILD...

OH, CHILD...

WHAT DID I DO? OH, GOD, MRS. LOCKE, I DIDN'T MEAN IT. WHAT DID I DO?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, ELLEN WHEDON.

WHAT DID YOU DO? DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME. DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU UNNECESSARILY. JUST TELL ME. TELL ME EVERYTHING.

UGLY GIRLS CAN'T AFFORD TO BE STUPID, TOO.

CLOCKWORKS

LOCKE & KEY

NEXT MONTH #6